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				Art Unit		37	3748					
(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)				····9/	Examiner	Name	Tu	Tu M. Nguyen				
					Attorney E	Oocket Number						
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TRANSMIT

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Applicant:

Patrick C. Marks, et al

Serial No.:

10/051,003

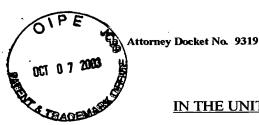
Filed:

January 18, 2002

Title:

MULTIPLE FREQUENCY HELMHOLTZ RESONATOR

Transmittal Form - 1 page Fee Transmittal – 2 pages (original and one copy) Return Receipt Postcard Reply Brief – 12 pages (4 page brief in triplicate)



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#16
10-14-03

In re)	•			
Application of)	Examiner:	TU M. NGUYEN		
PATRICK C. MARKS ET AL.)	Art Unit:	3748		
Serial No.: 10/051,003)	Docket No:	9319		
Filed: JANUARY 18, 2002)				
For: MULTIPLE FREQUENCY)				
HELMHOLTZ RESONATOR	()		•		

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Syracuse, New York October 2, 2003

Commissioner for Patents Alexandria, Virginia 22313

Sir:

This is responsive to the Examiner's Answer.

In the Examiner's Answer in the second paragraph on page 7, the Examiner states that "(t)he phrase 'continuous' is defined in a dictionary as 'marked by uninterrupted extension in space, time or sequence'. Thus, in a view point of time (emphasis supplied), as shown in Figure 2, the closed chamber (9) in Jessberger defines a Helmholtz

resonator which is continuously operatively connected to the inlet line (1) via a 10/10/2003 DTESSEM1 00000042 10051003

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Attorney Docket No. 9319

restricted connection (7) to reduce noise in the engine at all times (or for an uninterrupted extension of time), regardless if the connection (7) is open or closed."

This interpretation of continuous gives no weight to "uninterrupted" as part of the recited definition and gives no weight to open or operative versus closed or inoperative relative to the functioning of the restricted connection for attenuation noise.

In claims 3, 7 and 9, there is a recitation of "a Helmholtz resonator continuously operatively connected to said inlet line via a restricted connection" and this is believed to positively recite a restricted connection that is continuously connected to the inlet line which equates to open. Claims 3 and 7 further recite "means for attenuating noise" which is further defined as "includ(ing) at least one restricted connection which is selectively connected between said chamber and said inlet line" and this is believed to positively recite a second restricted connection. Further, it is believed that the terms "continuously connected" and "selectively connected" are mutually exclusive and cannot apply to the same restricted connection. This interpretation is contested by the Examiner in the first full paragraph on page 8 of the Examiner's Answer. While the Examiner correctly states that "(i)n claim 3 or 7 of the pending application, there is only one means plus function limitation", it appears starting at line 6 of claims 3 and line 7 of claim 7. There is a positive recitation of structure prior to the positive recitation of the means plus function and the Examiner ignores this recitation of structure as being separate from the means plus function structure. Accordingly, the Examiner concludes that the means plus function recitation incorporates the previously positively recited structure stating that "(t)his limitation [the prior recited structure] recites 'a restricted connection which is selectively connected between the chamber and the inlet line."

The Examiner further correctly states in the first full paragraph on page 8 that "(t)he limitation that recited 'a restricted connection which is continuously operatively connected between the chamber and the inlet line' is not a means plus function limitation." Since it is just a pipe it is not believed to require, or justify, a means plus function recitation. The Examiner, however, concludes "(t)hus, based on the means plus

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function limitations and because of the absence of the phrases 'first' and 'second' in these claims, the Examiner has determined that the limitations in claim 3 or 7 fail to specify two restricted connections for any embodiment in the pending application." The Examiner, states that "in the broadest reasonable interpretation of claims 3 and 7, the examiner has concluded that the restricted connection (7) in Jessberger is selectively, continuously, and operatively connected between the chamber (9) and the inlet line (1)." It is believed that this conclusion is clearly erroneous.

Clam 9 recites "a valve having only an open and a closed position" and in the last paragraph on page 9 of the Examiner's Answer, the Examiner argues that this is disclosed in Jessberger and states that "(a)s indicated on lines 10-13 of column 3, with regard to opening and closing of the restricted connections (7,8), the valve (10) in Jessberger has only an open and a closed position. This is further confirmed by analyzing Figure 3. As can be seen the design of valve (10) makes it impossible to either open or close both restricted connections (7, 8). The phrase 'or also both can be open or closed' on line 14 of column 3 clearly indicates a design feature of a different valve for a different embodiment because of the word 'or' at the beginning of the phrase."

The Examiner is clearly wrong on all of the conclusions with respect to valve 10. The valving action of valve 10 is only described in a single sentence at column 3 lines 10-14 which describes a single embodiment having four valving positions. With reference to Figure 3, rotation of valve 10, 30°, or so, in a clockwise direction or 60°, or so, in a counterclockwise direction would have both 5 and 6 open. Note the structure clockwise of the lead line for numeral 10 in Figure 3 and that patent drawings need not be drawn to scale. Rotation of valve 10 in a clockwise direction 150°-180°, or so, could block both 5 and 6.

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In summary, it is believed that the claim language and reference have been misinterpreted and that claims 3, 7 and 9 are allowable over Jessberger.

Respectfully submitted, PATRICK C. MARKS ET AL.

David J. Zobkiw

Reg. No: 26,627 Tele: (315) 433-4819 Fax: (315) 433-4075

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